

the city and the people of Hobart will forever be remembered. To honor Linda, a reception will be held at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, IN, on Tuesday, November 27, 2007.

Linda Schmelter was born in Gary, Indiana, to Leonard and Ann Schmelter. A lifelong resident of Hobart, Linda attended Saint Bridget Elementary School and Hobart High School. Upon her graduation, prior to beginning her career as a public servant, Linda was employed by Hobart Federal Savings. Undoubtedly, this position helped Linda develop the communication and organizational skills that would be critical in her future roles as an elected official. Early on, Linda began her career in the public sector in Hobart as an employee of the Hobart Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Throughout the years, she also held positions with the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, NIPSCO, where she was stationed in both the Hobart and Gary locations.

In 1988, Linda was elected First District Councilperson, a position she held through 1995, when she was elected mayor. This began Linda's 12-year mayoral career. During that time, Linda's commitment and proven leadership skills led to many impressive advancements, many of which will have an immeasurable impact on the City and the people of Hobart for years to come. For all of Linda's leadership, hard work, and dedication to the people of Hobart, Linda was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 2005 from former Governor Joseph E. Kernan.

Although Linda's responsibilities in her capacity as mayor have occupied a large amount of her time, Linda has always been active in various organizations throughout the years, including: the Kiwanis, the Hobart Industrial Economic Development Corporation, HIEDC, the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, the Hobart YMCA, and the School City Educational Foundation. She has served on several boards, including: the Workforce Development Board, the Crisis Center Board, and the Saint Mary Medical Board. A dedicated and lifelong Democrat, Linda has also served as Vice-Chair of the Hobart and Lake County Democratic Precinct Organizations and as Treasurer of the Indiana State Democratic Organization.

While Linda has passionately served the people of Hobart with unwavering dedication for many years, her commitment to her community is surpassed only by her love for her family. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Linda and her husband, George, have been married for over 26 years. They have one son, Michael, and two teenage grandchildren, whom they cherish and adore.

Madam Speaker, Linda Buzinec has selflessly given her time and efforts to the people of Hobart, Indiana, throughout her years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her years of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH SCOTT NICHOLLS FOR
LEADING THE GIRL'S SOCCER
TEAM TO PLACE SECOND IN THE
MANCHESTER UMBRO INTER-
NATIONAL CUP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Scott Nicholls showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Coach Scott Nicholls was a leader and mentor for the team; and

Whereas, Coach Scott Nicholls has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Scott Nicholls for leading the girl's soccer team to place second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 soccer season.

**HONORING THE PUTNAM COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1977. The department started with a Ford van and two 55-gallon drums of water, a water pump and garden hose and approximately four people.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Putnam County, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Keith Barber, John Barrow, Tony Beaty, Gene Billbrey, Daryl Blair, Jason Bohannon, Devin Brown, Adam Brown, Roger Brown, Tom Brown, Brian Burgess, Tim Burton, Marshall Cox, Carol Dempsay, Josh Dempsay, Charles Doss, Chris Edgerton, Derrick Edwards, Brent Emery, Timothy Gann, Daniel Harris, Jeff Hicks, Daniel Hodge, Shawn Hotsinpiiler, Grant Hubbel, Darrell Jennings, Jason Jennings, Jason Jones, Mike Keith, Jim Knight, Richard Lynch, Lonette Marcus, Jeff Matheney, Tom McClatchie, Marvin Mont-

gomery, Jeremy Morris, John Mullin, Jeremy Nash, Michael Norris, David Phy, Joel Qualls, Danny Randolph, Fred Ray, Ray Rowland, Jason Scott, John Sisco, Brandon Smith, Daniel Snyder, Tony Stamps, Troy Tayse, Tony Waters, Matt White, Tony Williams, Josh Womack, Shandrea Womack and Zack Womack.

**TEXAS CHEERLEADERS RAISE
MONEY FOR U.S. TROOPS COM-
ING HOME FROM IRAQ**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, a strong sense of patriotism is sweeping through the second district of Texas between to local football teams and spreading on to the gridiron. It is a short story, but it says volumes about the generosity and spirit of the people of Texas.

The varsity cheerleaders at Klein Forest High School and Westfield High School challenged each other to see who could raise the most money for troops returning home from Iraq.

The challenge would last two weeks and the money would be presented to members of the Family Readiness Group of Company B, 15th Brigade Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade during a homecoming football game.

The cheerleaders collected donations during and after school for the next two weeks. They asked local businesses to help support the troops returning home to Texas. During the homecoming football game, they passed around buckets throughout the stadium for additional donations from the fans.

The two cheerleading squads raised close to \$4,000.00 for the Family Readiness Group to use in welcoming home the troops this holiday season.

I commend both squads for being generous and patriotic Americans. Thanks for showing the troops that we support and appreciate the sacrifices they are making for us, our families, and our future.

And that's just the way it is.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING HIL-
LARY BROWN FOR PLACING SEC-
OND IN THE MANCHESTER
UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hillary Brown competed in England's largest youth soccer tournament; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional

District, I congratulate Hillary Brown on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO NORCO CITY
COUNCILMAN HERB HIGGINS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, California are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Herbert Higgins is one of these individuals. On December 4, 2007, Herb will be honored at a dinner in honor of his retirement from the Norco City Council.

Herb has served on the Norco City Council for 8 years and served as mayor in 2002 and 2005. Prior to being a councilmember, Herb served on the Planning Commission from 1998 to 1999. Councilman Higgins has also served on the Audit Committee, the Norco Chamber of Commerce, the Riverside Child Safety Committee, the Water Task Force, and the Western Riverside Regional Wastewater Authority.

Mr. Higgins has achieved several accomplishments during his tenure on the Norco City Council including: initiating the charter system of government for the city of Norco, instigating the testing of Wyle Labs for the health of our children, developing the Community Action Group and starting the All Volunteer Programs in Norco and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Herb's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Norco, California. Herb has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events, and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires. I wish him and his lovely wife Doris all the best.

HONORING THE DEKALB COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the DeKalb County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The DeKalb County Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1975. Since then, six more substations have been added. The department services 11 communities.

Without volunteer fire halls, like DeKalb County, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service

is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the DeKalb County Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Donny Green, SC Ernie Hargis, David Agee, Larry Bain, Duncan Block, Jeffery Bogle, LT Anthony Boyd, Patrick Britain, Gray Cantrell, LT James Cantrell, Ryan Carlisle, Gelasio Chacon, LT Billy Crymes, LT Kevin Curtis, Larry Dalton, Dustin Farris, Claude Foster, Sarah Hash, Timothy Hearn, Anthony Johnson, Darrell Johnson, SC Jerry Johnson, Travis Johnson, Cathy Jones, Richard Judd, SC Richard Kinsey, LT Michael Lawrence, Calvin Martin, Jimmy Martin, Ronald Merriman, Brad Mullinax, John Mullins, Robert Myracle, SC Jeremy Neal, Andy Pack, Billy Parker, SC Danny Parker, Timothy Pedigo, LT James Pennington, Shawn Puckett, Howard Pyles, Jeff Rankhorn, Tim Reynolds, Jason Rice, Wesley Slager, Paulino Solorzano, Jerry Summers, LT Anthony Thomas, C. J. Tramel, Calvin Tramel, Christopher Tramel, Roy Tramel, Kenneth Waggoner, SC Phillip Waggoner, SC Hugh Washer, Jonny Wright, James Young, and LT Mark Young, PR Jerry Bain, PR Kelly Cantrell, PR Daniel Green, PR Rita Houk, PR Justin Ligget, PR Caleb Roth, PR Jonathan Scurlock, PR Andy Snow, PR Shane Turner, and PR Christopher Wyke.

Honorary Lifetime Members: Honorary Captain Jeff Williams, Wilson Williams, Wayne Adcock, R.V. Billings, Mike Cleland, Melvin King, Honorary Asst. Chief Roy Merriman and Bob Rice.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JOHN AND ANNIE GLENN ON RECEIVING THE 2007 I'M A CHILD
OF APPALACHIA

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, John and Annie Glenn are proud of their Appalachia roots, growing up in New Concord, Ohio, where they both attended Muskingum County High School and Muskingum College; and

Whereas, John and Annie Glenn have been an inspiration to their community and the world by making a difference in the lives around them; and

Whereas, Annie Glenn has been a model for those with communicative disorders; and

Whereas, Annie Glenn has been a devoted mother and wife, mentor, confidant, and friend to many; and

Whereas, John Glenn has been an inspiration after being the first astronaut to orbit the Earth, to become the oldest human to venture into space and to serve as a U.S. Senator for four terms; and

Whereas, John Glenn is a testament to all showing that one can come from anywhere and achieve their dreams; and

Whereas, the couple appreciates the importance of education though ones lifetime; and

Whereas, John and Annie Glenn have recognized the importance of business and community achievement; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend John and Annie Glenn on their contributions to Appalachia Ohio. Congratulations to John and Annie Glenn on being the 2007 I'm a Child of Appalachia Honoree.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3996, TEMPORARY TAX
RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Temporary Tax Relief Act (H.R. 3996), and I would like to congratulate Chairman RANGEL and Speaker PELOSI for putting families first. This bill is necessary, fair and fiscally responsible. H.R. 3996 reverses the trend of tax breaks for the wealthy and instead gives a well deserved break to hard working middle class Americans.

The AMT was originally designed to ensure that very wealthy individuals did not use loopholes and deductions to avoid paying much or all of their taxes, and for many years it did just that. However, since the AMT was not indexed for inflation, a problem ignored by past Congresses, it now threatens to ensnare 23 million middle-class families. We must act now to prevent this unintended burden on hard-working Americans.

Additionally, several tax benefits for research and development, veterans, college students, and families will be extended by this legislation. These are important provisions of the tax code that, if allowed to expire, would cause millions of American families and businesses to be hit with an unexpectedly high bill from the IRS this year.

Unlike recent Congresses, we in the 110th Congress have made a commitment to pay-as-you-go spending principles. We are all best served by a tax code that is fair, simple and based on the ability to pay, and fixing the tax code for the middle class will mean lessened collections by the IRS. That is why this legislation pays for these tax benefits for middle class Americans by closing loopholes for a few wealthy individuals, such as those who pay less tax on the bonuses they receive for managing multi-million dollar hedge funds than most Americans pay on their hard-earned income.

This legislation also fixes a flaw in the tax code that places an undue burden on families facing foreclosure. Due to this flaw, the outstanding debt owed on a foreclosed home is counted as income for tax purposes. The individuals affected by this never see this 'income' and are clearly not in any position to pay taxes on additional tens of thousands of dollars. This bill will prevent this on-paper income from forcing American families to pay taxes on their misfortune.

I urge my colleagues to support this much needed and fully paid-for tax break for middle class America.